

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application. Claims 1, 3 – 6, 8 and 11 – 14 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 – 6, 8 and 11 – 14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barker (US Patent No. 6,646,765) ("Barker") in view of Yakata (JP Publication No. 10275206) ("Yakata"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1 and 8 have been specifically amended to include the limitation that the user-selectable markings are used to electronically route the scanned document. It appears that Barker's cover sheet may include information that is incorporated into an output document, but does not appear to address the issue of routing that Applicant does at paragraphs 24 -26. Therefore, unless the Examiner can provide some evidence that this limitation is shown in the prior art, claims 1 and 8 should be allowed.

Claims 3 – 6 and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 3 – 6 depend from claim 1.

Claims 11 – 14 and new claims 15 and 16 should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed as claims 11 – 14 and new claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 8.

Claim 17 and 18 are similar to claims 1 and 8, only they add that the user-selectable markings incorporate metadata that is associated with the scanned document. It appears that Barker's cover sheet may include information that is incorporated into an output document, but does not appear to address metadata to be associated with a document. Therefore, unless the Examiner can provide some evidence that this limitation is shown in the prior art, claims 17 and 18 should be allowed.

Application No. 10/736,663

If the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, please call Applicant's attorney, Joseph Young at 503.685.4229 or fax him at 503.685.4223.

Respectfully submitted,

/Joseph M. Young, Reg. No. 45248/

Joseph M. Young
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,248
Telephone (503) 685-4229
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JMY/rjh